

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN HA-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 179533

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SHUM BL

SUBJECT: BOLIVIAN ELECTION FRAUD

1. IN VIEW OF RECENT INTERNATIONAL OBSERVER FINDINGS OF SERIOUS DETERIORATION IN BOLIVIAN ELECTION PROCESSES, INCLUDING LIKELIHOOD OF FRAUDULENT PRESIDENTIAL VOTE COUNT FINDINGS ALSO DESCRIBED BY EMBASSY LA PAZ, WE HAVE

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EXPRESSED OUR SERIOUS CONCERN TO GOB AT HIGHEST LEVELS. WE HAVE TOLD GOB ELECTION FRAUD WILL BE PERCEIVED ABROAD AS BACKSLIDING ON PLEDGED RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AND AS VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION OF CIVIL AND POLITICAL LIBERTIES. WE ALSO HAVE EMPHASIZED POTENTIAL ADVERSE IMPACT ON U.S.-BOLIVIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS AND STRESSED POSSIBLE DIMINISHED INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF

ELECTORAL RESULTS IF PRESENT COURSE CONTINUES.

2. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY LONDON INFORMING FCO AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF OUR VIEWS ON ELECTION FRAUD AND URGING HMG (IF IT HAS NOT ALREADY DONE SO) EXPRESS SIMILAR CONCERN ABOUT IMPLICATION OF THIS ACTION ON DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AND INTERNATIONAL PERCEPTION OF BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT. BEGIN FYI. WE BELIEVE BRITISH DEMARCHE WOULD BE ESPECIALLY APPROPRIATE AND EFFECTIVE IN VIEW PRESENCE OF LORD AVEBURY ON OBSERVER TEAM AND HIS UPCOMING PRESS CON-

ERENCE ON ELECTIONS IN LONDON. EMBASSY ALSO WILL RECALL VISIT OF BRITISH MINE WORKERS DELEGATION TO BOLIVIA MING AREAS MID 1977 AND THEIR REPORT OF REPRESSIVE WORKING CONDITIONS AND UNION RESTRICTIONS WHICH REPORTEDLY LED TO CANCELLING A PLANNED UK LOAN TO GOB. END FYI. SINCE TIME FACTOR CRITICAL DEMARCHE SHOULD BE MADE AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY.

3. IF THEY BELIEVE IT MIGHT FURTHER OUR AIM ON THIS QUESTION, EUR INFO ADDRESSEES ARE ALSO INVITED TO INQUIRE OF HOST GOVERNMENTS WHETHER THEY HAVE MADE ANY DEMARCHE AND URGE SAME IF HOST GOVERNMENT SEEMS RECEPTIVE AND JUDGES SUCH DEMARCHE WOULD BE PRODUCTIVE. CHRISTOPHER

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